

11 February 1969

25X1

MEMORANDUM FOR:

SUBJECT : Invitation from Gettysburg College for
an Agency Speaker

1. I have no contacts at Gettysburg and I have no sense of the situation there. I note that Mr. Fick warns in advance that "the audience will be demanding and hostile." I have no doubt that if anyone in the Agency can handle the kind of situation and audience likely to be encountered at Gettysburg, it would be Mr. Smith.

2. However, I doubt the usefulness of open forum discussion and defense of the Agency's role, morality, effectiveness, etc. Certainly my own effort at a faculty seminar at the University of Florida was a non-productive one. Useful dialogue comes easily on substantive matters, i.e., China, the Soviet Union, or economics. But when one takes on the broad and philosophic questions of intelligence and the Agency before a spiritually-mixed audience, the going gets pretty sticky.

3. I favor accepting requests from visiting student or faculty groups who want to come to the Agency, in reasonably limited numbers, for a briefing and discussion. Under such circumstances we exercise some control, and have the advantage of performing in our own environment. We would even outnumber the visitors, instead of the other way around. I also believe we should maintain policy consistency in handling such requests. You may recall I recently drafted a letter replying to a very intelligent and thoughtful invitation from the Dean of Students, University of South Carolina, for an officer to participate in an open forum discussion of the CIA. The reply, copy attached, was staffed through Mr. Goodwin, Col. White, and Mr. Bannerman.

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Attachment:
Draft Letter to Carolina

Distribution:

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

6 WASHINGTON 1963 D.C.

Mr. C. O. Cathey
Dean of Student Affairs
The University of North Carolina
Chapel Hill, North Carolina

Dear Dean Cathey:

The Director has asked me to reply to your letter of December 13 inviting an official of the Central Intelligence Agency to come to Chapel Hill to debate in public forum the activities of the Agency.

You are justified, I am sure, in your confidence that such a dialogue on your campus would take place in an atmosphere of reasonableness and order, and there can be no doubt that many students and faculty would find such a meeting interesting and informative. As you may know, Agency officers have met occasionally with small groups of students and faculty for off-the-record discussions. However, it is not appropriate for the Agency to debate in public forum its assigned mission and activities, or issues of international policy.

We do appreciate the spirit of good will and the thoughtfulness apparent in your letter; hence, it is with regret that we must decline your invitation. The Director asked me especially to convey to you his appreciation for your continued cooperation with the Agency recruiting program.

Sincerely yours,

[Redacted Signature]

Coordinator for Academic Relations

STAT

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DATE: 18 Feb 1969

TO: Jack
FROM: Ed
SUBJECT: Speakers for Universities

REMARKS:

I talked to Col. White about the requests for speakers from Gettysburg College and Drew University. He agrees with our suggestion that:

- a) We talk to the Drew people here in the building, and he thinks the letter which the Director is to sign is perfect.
- b) He wants us to prepare a negative reply to Gettysburg College to show to the Director for his approval. We are having this letter prepared for signature.

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OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR

DATE: 17 Feb 69

TO: ~~Mr. Proctor~~/Mr. Smith

FROM: *chf*

SUBJECT: Request for Agency Briefing of
Student Group from Drew University

REMARKS:

The Director asks that you accept the attached request from Drew University (New Jersey) to hold a briefing for a small (14 students) political science seminar. The requester is a Williams College alumnus.

has prepared the attached reply for the Director's signature, agreeing to receive the seminar.

white should be informed!
Ed
Mr. Smith:
Rewritten per your instructions
KW

ACTION

OFFICE OF THE DE/P

TO: Mr. ~~Proctor~~ *OP* DATE: 11 Feb 1969
Mr. Smith *RIP*

FROM: ☐

Hold for reply.

SUBJECT: Gettysburg College Requests
Agency Speaker in Academic Year
1969-70

REMARKS:

The Director asks if you would
like to take this one on.

This is to inform you of the
Director's question. I have asked
☐ to give you his recommen-
dation.

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to respond

☐

DATE: 17 Feb 69

TO: Mr. ^{cwp}Proctor/Mr. Smith

FROM:

SUBJECT: Request from Gettysburg College
for Agency Speaker

REMARKS:

Prof. Fick requests an Agency speaker, for a "demanding and critical" audience in the academic year 1969-70.

College guide book description of Gettysburg College is attached.
 doubts that it would be in the Agency's interest for an Agency representative to participate in an open forum on campus. He recommends that we decline the request. favors receiving small academic groups at Headquarters, where we have some control.

I recommend that be authorized to send a polite "The Director has asked me..." letter to Prof Fick declining the invitation.

*I agree. Ed
white should be informed*

ACTION